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MINEHEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1967

10H. Minehead U D C I
Annual Report 1967
Miss E M Wright E203. 26 JAN 1970 3 FEB 1970

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To the Minehead Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1967 on the health of the Minehead Urban District.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Area: 2,739 acres
Population: 7,420 (Registrar General's mid-year Estimate)
Rateable Value: £501,086
Sum represented
by a penny rate: £1,979

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year

		TOTAL	Male	Female
Live Births:	Legitimate	80	37	43
	Illegitimate	7	3	4
Still Births:	Legitimate	-	-	-
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
Deaths from all causes		143	69	74
Deaths of Infants under 1 year		-	-	-
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population:		11.7		
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population:		19.3		

England and Wales

Estimated Mid-Year Home Population: 48,390,800 (Provisional data)

	Number	Rate
Live Births	832,000*	17.2 per 1,000 population
Still Births	12,500*	14.8 per 1,000 total births
Deaths	542,519	11.2 per 1,000 population
Infant Mortality (deaths under 1 year of age) ..	15,267	18.3 per 1,000 live births

* Estimated

Causes of Death

	Cause	TOTAL	Male	Female
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	6	2	4
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	8	6	2
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	4	-	4
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	6	-	6
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	9	7	2
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	1	-
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	31	14	17
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	24	12	12
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	-	2
20.	Other Heart Disease	11	5	6
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	9	3	6
23.	Pneumonia	8	4	4

/24. ...

	Cause	TOTAL	Male	Female
24.	Bronchitis	7	5	2
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	1	-
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	2	-
31.	Congenital Malformations	1	-	1
32.	Other defined and Ill defined Diseases	11	5	6
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1	-
34.	All other Accidents	1	1	-
	Total	143	69	74

Climatic Conditions

Rainfall

		1966
Annual: 33.56 ins.		33.83
Average Yearly: 33.4 ins.		
From 1st June to 30th September: 7.36 ins.		9.44
Days during period less than 0.01:	71	67
Days during period with 0.01 and 0.04:	11	15
Days during period more than 0.04:	40	40

Temperatures

Highest Air	78° F.	23rd August	78° F.
Lowest Air	34° F.	8th January	27° F.
Lowest Air	28° F.	8th December	34° F.
Lowest Air (1st June-30th Sept.)	55°F.	13th September	44° F.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Disease

Notifiable Diseases

	TOTAL	Male	Female
Measles	99	51	48
Scarletina	1	-	1
Whooping Cough	1	-	1
Erysipelas	1	-	1
Enteric Fever	1	1	-

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT

Home Nursing, Midwives and Home Helps

These services are provided by the Health Department of the Somerset County Council.

Hospitals

The Minehead and West Somerset Hospital is managed by the Bridgwater, Minehead and Butleigh Management Committee. The Hospital provides medical, surgical and casualty treatment and out-patient clinics. A Family Planning Clinic is held at the Hospital.

Health Centre and Dental Clinic

These are provided by the Somerset County Council at 54 Summerland Avenue, Minehead.

Ambulance Facilities

These facilities are provided by the Somerset County Council with ambulances stationed in Minehead.

Nursing Homes

There are four nursing homes in the district providing care for the aged and sick.

Old Persons Home

An Old Persons Home is provided by the Somerset County Council at Wyndham House Martlet Road, Minehead. Work on extending the building was carried out during the year.

Seventeen Old Persons Dwellings with Warden accommodation were completed during the year.

National Assistance Act, 1948 Section 47

After an unusually heavy fall of snow in December, I was asked by a general practitioner in the town to visit an old person who was living alone with a view to securing an Order for compulsory admission to hospital. The doctor was of the opinion that the man's medical condition required admission to hospital and that he was incapable of looking after himself satisfactorily. The old person steadfastly refused to accept the offer of a hospital bed.

With the assistance of a Welfare Officer from the County Council we managed to persuade the old person to agree to hospital admission and so formal proceedings were avoided.

HYGIENE AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

General

The number of inspections and visits made to various premises in the district was 1,733 and are detailed below:-

Abattoir	491
Food premises	412
Rodent control	306
Housing	30
Water Supplies	105
Public Health	143
Infectious Disease ..	-
Offices, Shops, etc. ..	246

Housing

The total number of dwellings in the district is 2,978. During the year 18 dwellings were erected by the Local Authority and 56 erected by Private Enterprise.

The total number of applicants for Council houses at the end of the year was 135.

There was no case of overcrowding reported during the year.

Number of Post-War Houses erected from 1st April, 1945 to 31st Dec., 1967				Housing Programme for 1968	
By Local Authority 273	By Private Enterprise 477			-	
No. of permanent dwellings in District as at 31.12.66 (a)	Gained from conversions and erected during 1967 (b)	Total (a) + (b)	Less Houses demolished closed etc. during year	No. of permanent dwellings in district as at 31.12.67	
				L.A.	P.E.
L.A. 359	18	377	-	377	-
P.E. 2544	57	2601	-	-	2601
TOTAL 2903	75	2978	-	2978	

Improvement Grants

A. Discretionary

One application was received and approved during the year.

B. Standard

Number of applications (a) received 15

(b) approved 10

Number of houses where Standard Amenities have been provided .. 7

Number of applications approved in respect of owner/occupiers .. 8

Water Supplies

The supply of water to the town is undertaken by the West Somerset Water Board. There are six sources of supply with Nutscale supplying the bulk of the water to the town and the other sources are from Broadwood, Longwood, Periton, Middlecombe and Moor Brake. All the sources, except Moor Brake which is from a borehole, are collected from land springs. All the supplies are chlorinated.

Results of Samples taken for analysis

Raw water				Treated water			
Bacteriological		Chemical		Bacteriological		Chemical	
Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory	Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory	Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory	Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory
16	8	6	-	20	-	-	-

The supply of water was adequate during the year. Complaints have been made from time to time regarding the discolouration of the water which is due to the soft water corroding the iron mains. Frequent flushing of the mains was carried out by the Water Board.

Plumbo-Solvency tests were made on all sources of water and the results were satisfactory.

Fluorine content of water supplies (in parts per million)

	1951	1963
Long-wood	0.04	0.03
Longcombe (Supply not in use)	0.03	-
Broadwood	0.03	0.02
Nutscale Reservoir	0.02	0.02
Periton	0.04	0.03
Moorbrake Bore	-	0.03
Middlecombe	-	0.03

Sewerage

The new Eastern Area Relief Sewer and the comminutor on the western area main sewer were completed in June. There was a marked improvement in the condition of the beach and there has been no flooding in the lower areas of Alcombe since the relief sewer was put into operation. The sewers serving The Avenue and a part of Glenmore Road were found not to be connected to the control chamber on The Esplanade, and a scheme was prepared to connect these sewers to the control chamber, thus storing all the sewage from the ~~western~~ eastern area in the sewerage system during the period of flood tide.

Refuse Disposal

The Quay West tip is now becoming full and a new site should be found as soon as possible. Discussions have been taking place with adjoining Authorities for a joint scheme of refuse disposal, and it is hoped that these decisions will soon reach a satisfactory conclusion.

Rodent Control

One part-time operator is employed to carry out the treatment of premises. Dwellinghouses are not charged for this service but the whole cost of treating business premises is recovered. During the year 43 properties were found to be infested with rats and 1 property with mice. No infestations of the sewers were found.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises

Premises	Number Registered	Number of persons Employed
Offices	47	569
Retail Shops	117	998
Wholesale Depts.	2	16
Catering Establishments	18	803
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-
TOTALS	184	2386

Factories

Particulars of premises registered under the Factories Acts 1937 to 1959 and the inspections made are as follows:-

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:-

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	6	7	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	36	34	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	42	41	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars	Found	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
		Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding ..	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature ..	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation ..	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors ..	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ..	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-

3. Outwork

	No. of out-workers in August list required by section 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu-tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole-some premises	Notices served	Prose-cutions
Wearing) Making apparel) etc.	5	-	-	-	-	-
Cleaning and washing	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	5	-	-	-	-	-

Swimming Pools

There are three swimming pools in Minehead. The Lido, Warren Road is privately owned, and is filled with sea water; two are in the Holiday Camp and are filled with fresh water from the Camp supply. The treatment adopted to maintain their purity is re-circulation, filtration and automatic chlorination.

Samples are taken frequently to ensure that the degree of chlorination is maintained and there is no trace of bacterial infection. Results of the tests indicated that in all the pools a safe bathing water was maintained.

Holiday Camp

The Camp caters for approximately 140,000 people during the summer season. Although there was a general improvement in the standard of hygiene there were times when the conditions caused some concern. The Company appointed a qualified Public Health Inspector (retired) as Hygiene Adviser at the Camp.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

The general standard of cleanliness of all food premises in the town was satisfactory and only minor informal action needed to be taken in a few cases.

The number of premises in the district are as follows:-

Abattoir	1	Fried Fish Shops	3
Bakehouses	0	Fruiterers & Greengrocers ..	10
Bakers' Shops	4	Grocers & Confectioners	34
Butchers	6	Holiday Camp	1
Cafes	16	Hostels	1
Chemists	5	Hotels with Restaurants	9
Clubs, etc.	8	Hotels, Residential	38
Canteens	2	Licensed Premises	9
Church Halls	6	Pie Factory	1
Dairies	1	Restaurants	8
Dairy Shops	2	School Kitchens	4
Fishmongers	3	Snack Bars	3

Ice Cream

One property is registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream and 58 premises for the sale of ice cream.

Meat

There is one privately owned abattoir in the district supplying meat for their own sales.

Carcases inspected and condemned:

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	359	-	21	2,568	937	-
Number inspected	359	-	21	2,568	937	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	1	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	30	-	-	26	25	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	8.0	-	-	1.0	2.6	-
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for:-	All animals					
(a) Tuberculosis	-					
(b) Cysticercosis	-					
(c) Other	567					
Total (in lbs.) condemned	567					

Food Condemned

Meat and meat products	122 lbs. and 23 tins
Bacon	-
Vegetables	-
Fruit	-
Soups	-

In addition to the duties under the Public Health and Food and Drugs Acts, the Public Health Inspector is responsible for duties under the Shops Acts, Young Persons Employment Acts, Petroleum Acts, Waste Food Orders and carries out duties under the Building Regulations and Town and Country Planning Acts.

One part-time technical assistant is employed to assist the Public Health Inspector.

In conclusion, I should like to thank Mr. Symes, your Public Health Inspector, and Mr. Burgess, your Clerk, for their help and courtesy at all times.

I must make it clear that most of the work and much of this Report has been prepared by Mr. Symes and I am happy to make acknowledgment to him.

A. PARRY JONES, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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